

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed February 25, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-13 and 15-58, as amended, are respectfully requested.

1. Present Status of Patent Application

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-13 and 15-58 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claims 15-25 are directly amended and claim 14 is canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. These amendments are specifically described hereinafter. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

2. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement in the Office Action in which claims 1-13 and 26-58 have been indicated as allowable. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 15-25, which depend upon independent claim 14, "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In the instant response, claim 16 is rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of independent claim 14. Accordingly, claim 16 is believed to be allowable as amended.

Claims 15 and 17-25 are not rewritten in independent form, but are amended to depend upon claim 16. Accordingly, claims 15 and 17-25 are believed to be allowable as amended.

3. Response to Rejection of Claim 14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Checchio* (U.S. Patent 6,023,682), in view of *Sandberg-Diment* (U.S. Patent 5,826,245). To advance prosecution of and to facilitate early allowance of the instant application, claim 14 is canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer so that the allowed claims 1-13 and 15-58 may issue to patent. Therefore, the rejection to claim 14 is rendered moot. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claim in a

continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

Applicants note that claim 14 is not being canceled in response to the rejection of the claim as allegedly being unpatentable over *Checchio* in view of *Sandberg-Diment*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 14 because the proposed combination of *Checchio* in view of *Sandberg-Diment* does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the recited features of claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants are not expressly surrendering any subject matter to overcome prior art by the canceling of claim 14.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1-13 and 15-58 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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